

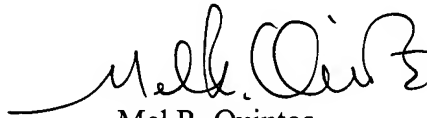
**REMARKS**

The above amendment is submitted to remove multiple dependent claims. Please note original claims 1 and 2, which belong in the category "X" in the International Search Report, and original claim 3, are removed from the original specification by filing the Preliminary Amendment. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Mel R. Quintos  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/jaz  
Atty. Docket No. **050568**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



**23850**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE